

Maryland Primary Care Organization

The Maryland **Primary Care Organization (PCO)** is federally funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration's **Bureau of Health Professions (BHPr)** to promote federal, state, local and private collaboration to expand comprehensive, community-based, primary care services for medically underserved populations.

MISSION

The Maryland **PCO's** mission is to improve access to health care services for all Marylanders in underserved communities by developing strong partnerships; building local resources; supporting and retaining health care providers; promoting relevant state and national health policies, and reducing health disparities.

PCO PRIORITIES

- Providing Technical Assistance to Organizations and Communities
- Needs Assessment and Data-sharing
- Workforce Development
- Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) & Medically Underserved Area/Population (MUA/P) Designations

WHO WE SERVE

- Medically Underserved Populations
- Hospitals
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Physicians and other health professionals
- Safety-net Providers
- Local Health Departments
- Communities
- Local, State, & Federal Governments

WHAT WE DO

- Collect and submit data that can lead to shortage designations that help to bring federal resources to Maryland.
- Serve as a liaison to federal immigration officials for requests for visa waivers that enable foreign health professionals to serve in underserved areas.
- Coordinate programs that provide clinical staff to underserved areas of the state. Examples of these programs are the Loan Assistance Repayment Program (LARP), the National Interest Waiver (NIW), the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), and the J-1 Visa Waiver Program.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, through the Office of Health Policy and Planning (OHPP) administers the **PCO** program. For more information, visit: <http://fha.state.md.us/ohpp/pco/>

Fact Sheet prepared by the Office of Health Policy and Planning, located in the Family Health Administration, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.



Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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